

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1478

January 16, 2018

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a hearing if a stepparent's or former stepparent's petition for visitation is opposed by a parent or custodian, or if the stepparent's visitation has been significantly reduced by the parent or custodian, and any of seven proposed circumstances exists. Requires the court to determine the presence of a danger of substantial harm to the child when considering a petition for stepparent visitation. Establishes criteria for the court to consider when determining the best interest of the child for purposes of stepparent visitation.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-6-303(a), a stepparent can file a petition for visitation if they are contributing towards the support of the child.
- The legislation expands the current law by allowing a stepparent or former stepparent to file a petition for a hearing when visitation is opposed by a parent or custodian, or if the stepparent's visitation has been significantly reduced by the parent or custodian, and any of seven proposed circumstances exists.
- Based on information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, any change in the number of hearing petitions filed is estimated to be not significant and can be handled within the existing resources of the courts.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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